

in Douglas County has two judges. Right now we are also funding the use of retired judges to come in and try to help out and they are still falling behind. They're still having a difficult time. If you look at just the sheer volume, the percentage change from '87 to '94, and by the way, the two judges predates '87. That's just as far back as we've gone. The percentage would be much, much higher if we went back further, but 103 percent increase in caseload with the same number of judges handling it. There was a time in the early 1980s when we used what was called an associate juvenile judge in Douglas County to help try to alleviate it. That is no longer being done so at times we have said it needs three judges. There has been retired judges working basically as long as most people I think can remember, trying to help with that caseload because there is just an absolutely enormous caseload. And when we're talking about juvenile court, we're not talking about delaying somebody's divorce, we're not talking about delaying somebody's auto collision, personal injury case, we're not talking about delaying an adult criminal case. What we're talking about delaying is neglect cases and abuse cases. We're talking about cases where kids have to be taken out of a home and trying to make sure that we can get that case up and heard before a judge. We're talking about cases where we have the most ability to correct somebody from criminal behavior, that is when they're young, and at times not even having enough judges that there's...willing to have a petition filed for some criminal behavior. I think it's absolutely imperative to put the resources, at least to get us to, just to crisis level by adding this judge. I think it's just absolutely imperative to do that if we are to seriously address some of the juvenile crime problem as well as some of the other cases, very serious cases that are filed in the juvenile court. With that, I would urge the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I just want to assure Senator Withem that I will...I'm a member of the Judiciary Committee and I will look at these other proposals as they come before us and wherever it is shown that additional help is needed in the juvenile court, whether it's Sarpy County or Lancaster County or wherever else, if the need is shown I will support it. I supported those propositions last year and maybe that's all I need to say at